

THOUGHTS

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ON

11-10-1722

PUBLICK PRAYER, AND ON MODERN INFIDELITY.

By a YOUNG GENTLEMAN.

PSALM lxxxiv. 1, 2.

O how amiable are thy Dwellings: thou Lord of Hosts! My Soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the Courts of the Lord: my Heart and Flesh rejoice in the living GOD.

JUDE v. 3, 4.

Beloved, when I gave all Diligence to write unto you of the Common Salvation: It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you, that ye should earnestly contend for the Faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. For there are certain Men crept in unawares, who were of old ordained to this Condemnation, ungodly Men, turning the Grace of GOD into Lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord GOD, and our Lord Jesus Christ.



L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year M. DCC. XXXV.



THOUGHTS ON PUBLICK PRAYER.

ANY Person, by looking into his *Common-Prayer-Book*, may be convinced, that the Church of *England* requires her Members to worship ALMIGHTY GOD in the Church oftner than once a Week, (which too many Professors of Christianity can content themselves with) or even than once a Day ; for she has wisely appointed both Morning and Evening Prayer Daily throughout the Year : And, in Pursuance of this Order, the Minister causes a Bell to be tolled, and does thereby give Notice to all his Parishioners, who are not necessarily hindred by Sicknes or worldly Employment, to repair to the sacred Place of Publick Worship, and there, with one Accord, with united Hearts and Voices, to offer up their Morning and Evening Sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and Praise, with Supplication, to the AWFUL MAJESTY of Heaven and Earth.

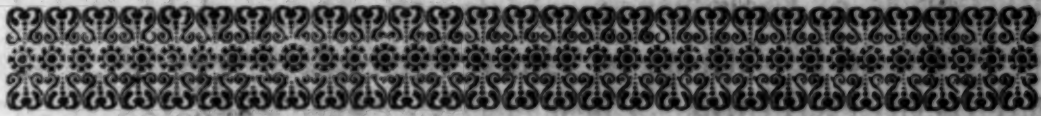
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THIS Institution of assembling ourselves at stated Hours of the Day, is as old as Christianity itself, and God forbid it should be totally and universally neglected in these our dangerous Days, since it certainly is an admirable Means of attaining the End of our Faith, even the Salvation of our Souls, and of continually receiving fresh Supplies of Grace from the Throne of Grace. And indeed, it may safely be affirmed, that no Person was ever the worse for complying with this devout Injunction of our Church, provided he brings along with him a sincere Disposition, and a due Preparation of Heart and Mind. No one, I dare say, thus qualified, had ever any Remorse of Conscience for praying twice every Day to GOD in Publick. On the contrary I verily believe, he has more real Peace of Mind, and more substantial Happiness, than those wordly-minded Persons who vainly flatter themselves into an Opinion that a great deal less than this will do well enough; and that they can get to Heaven without putting themselves to such mighty Care and Concern about the Matter. But, O! that Men were wise! that they would not thus reason themselves into Perdition, nor suffer the Prince of the Power of the Air, and strong Captain of Mischief, to fool them out of Eternal Happiness by such an idle way of thinking. Would to God these mistaken People
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could submit to read over with Attention, what, perhaps, for Years they have neglected to do, that admirable Composition, *The Catechism*. They might there, in the most lively manner, discern the true Nature of their Duty towards GOD: They might thence, by the good Grace of His Holy Spirit upon their Minds, be convinced, that in order to please him, “ They must believe in him, must fear him, and love him with all their Hearts, with all their Minds, with all their Souls, and with all their Strength: They must worship him, must give Thanks to him, must put their whole Trust in him, call upon him, Honour his Holy Name and his Word, and serve him truly all the Days of their Lives.”

BE This thy Care, O my Soul: Do thou never forget the GOD that made thee: Be thou constant and uniform in performing thy Duty to that ALMIGHTY BEING who has hitherto miraculously preserved thee, and (if it be not wanting on thy part) will preserve, and safely conduct thee through this earthly Pilgrimage, this World of Sin and Misery, to those calm Regions of Bliss and Immortality, which Eternal Truth has promised to all those who diligently seek him. Finally, Do thou, in obedience to the Church whereunto thou belongest, twice every Day, (when thou hast Opportunity, and art not unavoidably hindered by Sicknes or
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some urgent Necessity) repair to God's House, and there offer up with unfeigned Devotion, the just Tribute of Adoration and Honour, Dominion and Power, to the OMNIPOTENT RULER of the Universe, who, in the Language of the Royal Psalmist, *Has made the Outgoings of the Morning and Evening to praise him.*



THOUGHTS

ON

MODERN INFIDELITY.

HOW is it possible for any sincere Christian to observe our present crying Iniquities, both in Principle and Practice, with a lukewarm Indifference? Who can hear and see our most HOLY FAITH trampled upon, despised, and affronted, and be unconcerned? — In what Christian Age or Country was there ever known such open Prophaneness and Infidelity, as in these our Days, and in this our Nation? — When or where were the sacred and important Truths of the Gospel treated in so reproachful a Manner?

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THE grand Enemy of Souls has been always very industrious in deluding Mankind into Perdition ; but, GOD knows, Numbers of them now-a-days spare him the Trouble, and yield themselves up to him willing Captives to do his Drudgery. These Men will not suffer Salvation itself to save them : They drive away the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD from them ; and, alas ! their Destruction is of themselves. Miserable deluded Mortals ! They are so foolish as to fancy their own Reason is equal to every Thing : They laugh at the Revealed Will of GOD to sinful Mankind ; and (if you will take their own Words for it) they are very wise in rejecting all farther Helps than what their own originally depraved Natures, biaſſed Judgments, and little self-sufficient Conceit can give them. Thus, behold, if our modern doughty Men of Reason, and the vain Disputers of this World, were to exercise spiritual Dominion over us, OMNISCIENCE must not be allowed to save lost Man His own Way !

SHALL not GOD viſit for theſe Things ? Without all Controverſy he will, and that ſhortly too, except we heartily repent, and turn unto him. His HOLY SPIRIT will not be always ſtriving with perverſe Mortals. No, it is exceedingly to be feared, without our ſpeedy and ſincere Amendment, he will take flaming Vengeance on his Adverſaries, and pour out the furiousneſs of his
Wrath,

Wrath, Anger, Displeasure and Trouble upon those who can forget, basely and ungratefully forget that GOD would be their Saviour, and the High GOD their Redeemer.

BUT, O! that we would seriously and with Humility consider, before the horrible Pit of Destruction has shut their Mouth upon us, and we shall wish ten Million times to no purpose, that we had considered the numerous and infallible Proofs which GOD Almighty has vouchsafed us of the Truth of that pure, holy, and merciful Religion which we profess. --- Matter of Fact is not capable of receiving more undeniable Evidence than we have received in Confirmation of Christianity. --- "The Blind, at the Command of our Lord and Master, "saw." "The Dumb spake." "The Deaf heard." "The "Devils were subject unto Him, and with Fear and "Trembling were forced to confess him." "The Dead "were raised to Life again: Nay, he himself died, "was buried, and rose again from the Dead." "The "HOLY GHOST, according to our Saviour's Promise, "visibly descended upon the Apostles, and imparted to "them the Gift of Tongues." And yet (such is the Stupidity of wilfully obstinate Man!) these mighty and wonderful Works, so plainly beyond all the Power of Nature, and as infallibly evident to Multitudes of Spectators as the Light of the Sun at Mid-day, cannot, it seems,

seems, convince some amongst us, that they are so many incontestible Witnesses of the Truth of the Gospel: That they do beyond all reasonable Contradiction, fully and certainly assure us, that it pleased GOD, after an ineffable Manner to cloath himself with Human Nature, and in it to dwell amongst us, and to die for us: That it was the pleasure of *Divine Goodness* to take this Method, and no other, to reconcile undone Man to himself. In a Word, that GOD manifested himself in the Flesh to abolish and utterly destroy the Works, and long usurped Tyranny of the Devil.

WHY will we not then accept of this amazingly-glorious Deliverance? Why these doubts? Whence this Cavilling? Why will dust and Ashes stand it out against GOD? Why will Men pretend to be wiser than their Maker? Why dispute ourselves out of Heaven into Hell? Out of Eternal Joy into Eternal Burnings?

I will close these Hints with earnestly recommending to the calm and deliberate Perusal of all well-meaning People, the truly *Pastoral Letters* of the Bishop of London; and I trust, by the blessing of GOD, they will call back the Seduced, I dare not say, the Seducers; confirm the Minds of weak, and rejoice the Hearts of all sound Christians.

GLORY be to GOD in the Highest.

Amen and Amen.